



TED STEVENS, Vice Chairman

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

“Improved Passenger Automobile Fuel Economy Act of 2007” Summary

- Require that the Secretary prescribe a fuel economy standard for passenger automobiles manufactured in model year 2017 of 40 miles per gallon.
- Clarify the Secretary of Transportation’s authority to raise and reform current CAFE standards for passenger automobiles, and allow the Secretary to prescribe standards for different classes of automobiles based on one or more vehicle attributes.
- Require the Secretary to issue CAFE standards for any model year at least 18 months before the beginning of that particular model year.
- Amend existing criteria that the Secretary must consider when promulgating CAFE standards to include motor vehicle safety, the effect of the standard on emissions, and the need of the United States to reduce its dependency on oil.
- Prohibit any CAFE regulation that would require a “uniform percentage increase” by manufacturer, and require that any regulation pass a cost/benefit test.
- Require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a national registry system for greenhouse gas trading of credits. Participation in the registry would be voluntary, and any entity conducting business in the United States would be eligible to utilize the services of the registry. Therefore, automobile manufacturers would be able to contribute or purchase emissions credits with other industries that generate greenhouse gases in order to achieve compliance with CAFE standards, with a limitation.